

## WASHINGTON CRITIC

*Published Daily, Sundays Excepted,*  
BY  
The Evening Critic Publishing Company.

BALLET KILBOURN, President.

Office, No. 941 D Street  
Post Bureau,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

TERMS—  
Single Copy, .2 Cents  
By Carrier, .25 Cents  
By Mail, postage paid, six months, .30 Cents  
Mail subscription, annually in advance, .30 Cents

**THE WASHINGTON CRITIC,**  
Washington, D. C.  
RICHARD H. SYLVESTER, — Editor

**THE CRITIC** is for sale in New York by  
Bretton & Co., Union Square.

Friends leaving the city for the summer  
can have The Critic mailed to their address,  
postage paid, for 50 cents per month.

WASHINGTON, JUNE 29, 1887.

## A CIVIL PENSION LIST OF FEDERAL JUDGES.

The law of Congress which provides that Justices of the U. S. Courts can retire at the age of seventy years after at least ten years' service on the bench, or full pay, establishes a civil pension list which applies to no other branch of the civil service.

This is one reason for the adoption of the unwritten rule of the Senate Judiciary Committee not to report in favor of the confirmation of any nominees for the position of U. S. Judge who is over 60 years of age.

The Senate contends that the establishment of the judicial retired pension list is an expression by Congress that the country expects the services of its Justices for at least ten years of continuous duty prior to the 70 years age clause, when they can retire on full pay. If a person is nominated and confirmed as a U. S. Judge who is over 60 years of age—say 65 years, as an illustration—he cannot retire on full pay till he has served ten years on the bench, making him at that time 75 years of age.

Should such judge at any time after he has reached seventy years and before his ten years of service, become incapacitated—and old age does often bring on sudden infirmities—he remains an incubus till the ten years have elapsed, when he can retire on full pay.

The case of Justice Ward Hunt is an example. He was relieved from the bench only by a special act of Congress.

Otherwise, incapacitated as he was, he would have remained till the expiration of ten years would have permitted him to retire on full pay.

While many Justices of the Supreme Court are and have been in full mental vigor at over seventy years of age, the Senate rule is considered wise in demanding at least ten years of service on the bench prior to reaching seventy years.

## OUR NATIONAL OPERA.

The financial troubles of the National Opera Company, which, notwithstanding its big receipts, appear to be of perennial recurrence, are attributed by the American Musical to its enormous expenses. It says:

The salary of Mr. Thomas is said to be \$10,000 a week; that of Mr. Candilis an equal amount, and that of Mr. Lowe \$7,500 a week. To help themselves to such enormous salaries, the management of the National, without any consideration whatever, has plucked the unfortunate citizens who were compelled to pay him a good round sum to persuade him to go away. They had heard of Early's raid on Maryland, picking up what they could get and mounting him wherever they could find a house or home, and they did know that if Early and his men could recruit a commanding force, they would be in a position to hold him at bay.

Early and his compatriots in arms laid a whole half day in front of Washington, less about as many men in trying to stop him. Early did not care where he stopped, and he was easily driven to the arrival of the State and a part of the Nineteenth Corps.

Then D. is not correct in saying that the organizations of clerks, etc., were never heard of. They were found of such much service to the management that they were regularly introduced into the service and rendered military service for over a year afterward. This latter fact of patriotism will ever induce him to sing for Mrs. Thurber's enterprise at \$400 or \$500 a week if he can make more elsewhere.

Our great artists, unfortunately for art, as we have often thought, are not built that way.

As a rule they are gross mercenary.

There is something heroic in Mrs. Thurber's indomitable energy under discouraging circumstances, and her confidence in the future of "Musical America" approaches the sublime; but success must be made in some way to depend, not on guaranteed funds, but on establishing such a proportion between the estimated receipts of the opera and the cost of its production, as will leave a margin for profits and avoid the humiliation of unpaid hotel bills, litigation for over due salaries, loans for railroad transportation and the clamor of the chorus for its small weekly stipends.

Possibly a change of management is the great thing needed. The public need to be assured that the enterprise is run on business principles, as well as on its artistic merits, as condition precedent to their patronage and support.

ANOTHER American opera company in distress has been heard from this time in Mexico. The causes of the collapse are not given in detail, but, according to Mr. Bird, the manager, his company was superseded upon the authorities at Del Norte and thrown into prison, whence they were only released after suffering severe privations, four deaths from smallpox and the loss of all their property. Whether it was the want of funds wherewith to pay their bills, or the quality of the music which they produced, that led to this shameful treatment is not stated, but it is to be hoped that no steps will be left untaken by the American Government to get at the truth of the story and see that proper reparation is made for any wrong that may have been inflicted. American opera must be protected at all hazards.

The District Commissioners have shown their unabated confidence in Mr. Powell's qualifications and methods by resappointing him to the superintendency of the public schools for another two years' term. It will doubt-

less be generally agreed that a change at this time would not be desirable. Of Mr. Powell's ability as an educator there can be no question. If there are faults in the system they can be corrected.

RECIPROCITY is the life of good fellowship as well as of trade, and this time instead of Lee Camp of Confederate Veterans going to Massachusetts at the guests of the Grand Army, the Salem and Lynn posts of Massachusetts are coming to Virginia as guests of Lee Camp. The visitors will arrive in Richmond, July 4, and great preparations are making for their reception.

With such a multitude of matters demanding public regulation, as the District Commissioners have had before them in the preparation of their revised rules, it is not to be wondered at that some things should have been overlooked. There is the young man with the comet, for instance. Will the Commissioners kindly look to his suggestion in their next edition.

## NOTES AND GOSSIP.

There are stories in Park's building originated, probably, among the dry jokes, and was a case of spontaneous combustion.—[Courtesy of Journal.]

J. COOPER, the Nebraska weather prophet, says there will be considerable rain in July, and probably light frost at the twentieth.

BENNY CLAWES, the New York banker, will spend most of the heated term at Newport, where he has a summer residence that cost \$100,000.

The Law Committee Board at Richmond has decided the death of Mr. Steele of Park, and the committee will be laid on its first of October next.

The Address book provided the sale and use in the city of the telegraph books, as the patent being open, exploded, last us peace—[New York World].

Never did the three hundred singers of the American Opera Company engage with more zest in a chorus than they are doing now for their unpaid salaries.—New York Graphic.

The largest of all electric lights is in the thousands. Sydney, Australia, and has a power of 1,000,000 watts.

WILLIS T. DEPOT, 13th and Water streets southward. Full supply of best Pennsylvania River ice always on hand, and delivered to any place and get set back. Large consumers having their own wagons will be liberally dealt with to get to their destination. Price one cent per pound. Large warehouse and storage facilities.—[Daily Advertiser].

MIKE KEATING of Old City, Pa., who made \$60,000 in before he was twenty years of age, failed the other day for forty dollars, but he is still young enough to begin life over again.

It is announced that Miss Gertrude Barrett, second daughter of Mr. Lawrence Barrett, the eminent tragedian, is engaged to be married to Mr. Joseph Anderson, brother of Miss Mary Anderson, the famous actress.

CHARLES C. BARRY, who resigned the position of cashier of the City Bank of Boston the other day, has been in the employ of the bank since 1877 and is active business life for fifty-six years.

THE ELEVENTH annual meeting of the Music Teachers' National Association will be held July 5-8 at Indianapolis, Ind., opening with an address of welcome by Mayor Denby, and closing with a reception at the State House, given by Governor Gray.

## JUDE EARLY'S RAID.

Something Further concerning His Investment of the National Capital.

EDITOR CRITIC: I have read "D.," communication in your paper of June 17, and I do not think he gives your readers quite a fair statement. He says the people of Washington were fully informed of Washington were fully frightened. Well, if they were, they did not know it.

They did know that there was a large body of Judah Early's raiders in Maryland, picking up what they could get and mounting him wherever they could find a house or home, and they did know that if Early and his men could recruit a commanding force, they would be in a position to hold him at bay.

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WASHINGTON, JUNE 29, 1887.

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